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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,511	10/03/2006	Malcolm Reginald Hallas Bell	17178-006	6093
54205 7590 10/04/2007 CHADBOURNE & PARKE LLP 30 ROCKEFELER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112				
			EXAMINER BEAUCHAINE, MARK J	
			ART UNIT 3653	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/04/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/551,511

Applicant(s)

BELL ET AL.

Examiner

Mark J. Beauchaine

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/29/05 & 4/3/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The term "elongate coil" (claim 8, line 1) lacks sufficient antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Patent Numer 4,989,714 by Abe ("Abe"). The coin acceptor disclosed by Abe comprises a coin sensing station having sensing coils including elongate coil winding 17 that extends longitudinally along coin rundown path 34 and is longer than the maximum diameter of

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coins to be accepted thereby, and processing circuitry 35 that is coupled to said coil and derives a coin diameter signal (see Figures 11 and 14; and column 2, lines 55-63).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Application Publication Number US 2003/0150687 A1 by King ("King") in view of Patent Number US 6,206,167 B1 by Taylor et al ("Taylor"). The coin acceptor disclosed by King comprises coin sensing station 4, coin rundown path 6 including a guiding surface, and body/cover configuration 2 (see Figure 1).

King fails to disclose said rundown path as being curved. Taylor teaches coin rundown path 10 being curved for the purpose of causing coin to engage guiding surface 20 via centripetal force (see Figures 2 and 3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the curved rundown path of Taylor into the coin acceptor of King for the purpose of causing coins to engage said guiding surface via centripetal force.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Taylor in view of Patent Number 4,062,435 by Chalabian ("Chalabian"). The coin acceptor disclosed by King comprises coin sensing station 4, coin rundown path 6 including a guiding surface, and body/cover configuration 2 (see Figure 1).

King fails to disclose said rundown path as being curved. Taylor teaches coin rundown path 10 being curved for the purpose of causing coin to engage guiding surface 20 via centripetal force (see Figures 2 and 3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the curved rundown path of Taylor into the coin acceptor of King for the purpose of causing coins to engage said guiding surface via centripetal force.

King fails to disclose pressure relief holes. Chalabian teaches a coin acceptor comprising pressure relief holes 121 and 123 (see Figure 5 and column 5, lines 34-41) for the purpose of relieving pressure between a coin and a coin guiding surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the pressure relief holes of Chalabian into the coin acceptor of King for the purpose of relieving pressure between a coin and a guiding surface.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark J. Beauchaine whose telephone number is

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(571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mjb


PATRICK MACKEY
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